

in anybody's life. When we all get our lives lived, we look back and we think about the children we raised, the things we loved and cared about. The purpose of politics is to make it possible for more and more and more people to live together in peace and harmony and to live out their dreams and to find their personal greatness and their families' depth and strength and character. That's what this is about. And that's what this election is about. Don't you ever forget it. And remember this: We're all here, we're all happy, we're all feeling good today. It's 5 months between now and the election. That is a very long time.

So I say to you, if you believe what brought you here today and you understand how important this is, then I want to ask you to leave here today with a commitment every day between now and November to talk to your friends and your neighbors about what is genuinely at stake. America is deciding on the future of the greatest country in human history for a new century. You can help make the decision the right one.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:03 p.m. in the executive terminal at McCarran International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to State Senator Dina Titus and State Representative Richard Perkins.

Remarks at the Presidio in San Francisco, California

June 9, 1996

Thank you. Thank you very much. Mr. Chandler, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Mayor, it's wonderful to be back in San Francisco. Congresswoman Pelosi, Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, thank you all for your work on this magnificent project.

You know, I always love coming here, but I especially love coming right here because that's my jogging route right there. [*Laughter*] Whenever I come to San Francisco I always go down there and run to the Golden Gate Bridge and back, so—and I didn't know exactly where we were going to do this on the Presidio today. I got driven around a little bit, so I got to see some other things that

are being done here. When I finally realized that we were going to do this here, I didn't know whether I could actually sit still long enough for the program to unfold, instead of just racing away down there—or, as the case may be, kind of stumbling away down there—toward the bridge.

I want to talk to you today about three little simple ideas that this magnificent place embodies, ideas that are easy to say but have a great deal to do with that kind of country we are and what kind of country we're going to be. When I think of the Presidio, I think of, first and foremost, preserving our incredible natural heritage and our important history. Second, I think about the obligation that the rest of the country has for defense conversion. And, thirdly, I think about partnership, the kind of partnership that Jim Harvey's life embodied and that all the things that Mr. Chandler just mentioned represent.

And I want you to think about all that today because in my opinion if this country is going to be what we all want it to be as we move into the next century, we have to keep going until every place that lost a lot because of the end of the cold war—which has a happy and wonderful event—has been fully restored to economic prosperity through a real commitment of all the American people to defense conversion. Because we cannot, over the long run, sustain an American economy in this new world unless we have a theory of sustainable development that puts the environment first, not last, and recognizes that we can grow the economy and still preserve our natural heritage. And because we cannot do a lot of what we need to do publicly and still continue to bring the deficit down unless we have partners: business partners, citizen partners, like the young people in the conservation corps, and others who are committed to making the most of our national potential.

It was a brilliant thing that the late Congressman Burton did to provide for the fact that this would become a national park if ever the military should leave. But all over California you see now what can happen if there's a real commitment not to leave the people who fought the cold war for us behind; in Monterey, where Fort Ord is now the California State University at Monterey Bay; in

Alameda, where machinists who once built Bradley fighting vehicles are now building electric cars for the 21st century; in Sacramento, where Packard Bell has now hired 3,600 people to assemble personal computers in a former Army depot. And, now, of course, this newest of our national parks is showing the rest of our national parks the way to the future.

I have to tell you that—the previous speaker sort of alluded to this, and with greater specificity when Senator Feinstein mentioned the California Desert Protection Act and how we got it—and then we very nearly lost it last year. But all of our national parks are at risk. Too many of them have fallen into disrepair. We're working hard to protect them. There were some people who wanted to sell off a lot of them or privatize them or just let them continue to fall into disrepair. We have resisted that, and I think it's clear now that there is an overwhelming bipartisan consensus in the United States that our national parks are a part of our national treasure; that we have to nourish them, we have to maintain them, we have to improve them. And the last thing in the wide world that we need to do is to get rid of any of them. We need to make them better, instead.

But I will say again, in order to do this right, we're going to have a lot of support from citizens. The businesses now in this park are thriving, already helping to offset taxpayer costs. Here at Crissy Field, where de Havilland biplanes once touched down, this land will soon become the great common ground for all Americans: historic buildings, wide open areas for kids to play in, restored natural habitat. All the design and planning here have been undertaken through private, nonprofit campaigns. And as we have learned today from their smiling faces and strong voices, much of the work has been done by volunteers who are just as dedicated to this country's future as those who drilled with the 6th Army outside these hangars a generation ago.

The Presidio bill now in the Congress that Congresswoman Pelosi worked so hard for and that Senator Boxer talked about—and she and Senator Feinstein are working hard for—has virtually no opposition. It calls for a public-private trust to oversee the Pre-

sidio's economic future, to preserve the park for future generations, to create a national park that will sustain itself without Government funds. So let me say again, I urge Congress to send me this bill in a clean and straightforward way. We simply cannot continue to have lawmaking paralyzed by the attempts to add to every single good bill that comes along in the Congress some objectionable provision. We need the Presidio bill. We need it now, we need it clean, we need it unhampered.

Let me just say one other thing. I was thinking about my jogging and looking at Senator Cranston, and I remember in my earlier years, back when I had a private life when I was Governor, sometimes Senator Cranston would jog in Washington together. I was thinking about all the years that he devoted to public service here in California. When you look at something like the Presidio, when you see at least the natural beauty of it, forgetting about the buildings, you may think it has been this way forever and that it would always be this way. But that is far from true.

The trees above us, the eucalyptus, the Monterey cypress, believe it or not, were only planted 100 years ago. The Americans who planted them knew that they would never see them full grown. They would never walk under their shade, but they planted them anyway. We are now being asked to deal with a different sort of planning. Our country is going through a lot of changes. We have proved that we can come to grips with the challenges of the modern economy. The American people have produced almost 10 million jobs in the last 3½ years. And after a long dry spell, a lot of them are being produced here in California.

But we cannot forget that what ought to animate us is a vision of what we want this place to be like 20 or 30 or 50 years from now. I know what I want it to be. I want the Presidio to exist in a country and a State where everybody who is willing to work for it can live up to their dreams; where people have good jobs, yes, but also children have safe streets and good schools; where everybody has access to a clean environment and natural beauty; where our country is still a force for peace and freedom and decency in

the world. And where, instead of being divided by all these differences that make up the American people, we are united by them and our respect for our diversity and our shared values. It all begins, in a fundamental way, with preserving what God has given us, and there has been no richer gift than the Presidio. I'll do my part, and I want you to keep doing yours.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. at Crissy Field. In his remarks, he referred to Robert Chandler, National Park Service project manager, the Presidio; Brian O'Neill, superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area; Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco, CA; and James R. Harvey, former chief executive officer, Transamerica, and former chairman, Presidio Council, Golden Gate National Park Association. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Community in San Diego, California

June 10, 1996

Thank you so much. Thank you, Chief Emerson, Sheriff Kolender, District Attorney Phingst. Chief Sanders, thank you very much for the tour of your activities this morning and your statements. Thank you, Congressman Filner. Thank you, Madame Attorney General for all the great work you do. I'd like to also say a word of appreciation for some others who are here who have not spoken today: our United States Attorney, Alan Bersin; the Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner, Doris Meissner; the person who was very active in helping me pass the crime bill which put these police officers on our streets, former Congresswoman Lynn Schenk, I'm delighted to see you here.

I want to thank all the officers who are here from the Customs, the Border Patrol, Immigration, from Chula Vista, from San Diego. I especially want to thank these uniformed officers who give their lives to make our lives safer and all the community citizens' groups who work with them. Thank you all very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, when I came to California and to San Diego 4 years ago and

I listened and attempted to learn what was going on here, I saw an enormous amount of potential and a lot of stress. Mostly what people talked to me about then were two problems, the economy and the problem of crime and illegal immigration. I spent a lot of time here 4 years ago and had the opportunity to come back often since. If you'll forgive me just one personal note, this is the first time I've come back to San Diego since the death of my friend Larry Lawrence, who served this country so well as our Ambassador to Switzerland, and I miss him now, coming back here, and I want to thank him for what he did for me here. Anyway, what we tried to do was to develop a serious approach, to work with you, to help you seize control of your destiny, and to help you do more of what you were already inclined to do.

On the economy, I'd like to make just a couple of comments. Because we're building two new ships for our national defense, the San Diego shipyards are busy, securing another 4,000 jobs until the year 2000. I think that's a good and positive step. Because in 1993 and 1994 the Congress agreed to invest in defense conversion, in high technology research and development and new environmental technologies and biotechnology, jobs are being created here that have a real future to grow in number and to strengthen and diversify the economy of this area. Because we've started work on a new sewage treatment plant and we're proposing to step up our sand reclamation efforts, thanks in no small measure to the relentless efforts of Congressman Filner, we're ensuring that the San Diego beaches will be enjoyed by children and their children for generations to come.

But we all know that America has had, building over years and years and years, a serious problem of illegal immigration which has aggravated the crime problem along our borders. The Attorney General talked about some of the progress we've made. She gave me a report today which reviews where we are and what we've done. So as we have worked hard to bring the crime rate down all over America, we've made special efforts in our border communities, because we know that we have special responsibilities there.